

HOUSE RESOLUTION 170

By Rinks

A RESOLUTION to commend Jimmy Whittington for his honorable and astute service as Mayor of the Town of Selmer.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Jimmy Whittington of Selmer is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary fourteen-year tenure as Mayor of Selmer, Jimmy Whittington has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; unfortunately for his fellow citizens, he will soon be relinquishing the reigns of leadership and stepping down from his mayoral duties; and

WHEREAS, few people have touched as many lives as Mayor Whittington, who has attained excellence both as a businessman and as a public servant; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Whittington has worked assiduously to establish a brighter future for the good people of Selmer as their first full-time Mayor by spearheading numerous civic improvement projects, including the development of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Selmer Center; the town's new industrial park; and the Selmer Community Center; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Whittington also expertly drafted several grants to obtain thousands of dollars in funds to improve parks and recreation areas and to establish new sidewalks, landscaping, and lighting for downtown Selmer; and

WHEREAS, he was also instrumental in organizing and developing Selmer's first full-time fire department, and after Mayor Whittington worked assiduously and successfully to obtain

grant monies to build a state-of-the-art fire station for the town, the Selmer Fire Department was recognized as the best fire department in the State in its population category; and

WHEREAS, the former owner of City Lumber and Hardware Company in Selmer, Mr. Whittington is a veteran of the United States Air Force, having proudly served his country in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, he honed his appetite for public service as a Selmer Town Alderman and a McNairy County Commissioner prior to his illustrious tenure as Mayor of Selmer; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Jimmy Whittington has been actively involved in the affairs of his community as a citizen in addition to his meritorious service in public office; he has previously served as President of the McNairy County Chamber of Commerce, Board member of the West Tennessee Emmaus Community, and a Director of The West Star Leadership Program, of which he is a graduate; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whittington recently assumed the office of Trustee for his alma mater, Rhodes College; he is also a registered historian who possesses a wealth of knowledge about the Civil War in general and the Battle of Shiloh in particular and serves as a tour guide and lecturer on these topics in his spare time; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Whittington is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, he serves with distinction as the Disaster Relief Coordinator for the Memphis Conference of the United Methodist Church, and he recently organized the Conference's relief response in Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Whittington's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, he is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife of thirty-six years, the former Annette Grissom; their son, Brad Whittington, who is employed by the U.S. Navy in Washington, D.C.; their son and daughter-in-law, Kevin and Kellie Whittington of Jackson; and their beloved first grandchild, Mason; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Whittington is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby commend Jimmy Whittington for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Selmer as their Mayor, salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and wish this remarkable gentleman all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.